

The Intelligencer.

Office 25 & 27 Fourth Street.

REW & CAMPBELL, PUBLISHERS AND PROPRIETORS.

TUESDAY, JUNE 19, 1877.

Real Estate Shrinkage.

The real estate shrinkage in cities has come to be a matter of grave consideration. The city assessment of the value for taxation of real and personal property in Baltimore has just been completed, and amounts to less than was expected. It is stated that the Assessors have recognized the shrinkage of value due to the business depression of the last few years, and also the fact that the standard assessment was made when the currency was largely depreciated and real estate was bought and sold at very high figures. The Baltimore Sun estimates that a large proportion of middle class property in that city was ten years ago assessed at from thirty to fifty per cent beyond what it would now bring in the market. The Sun strongly urges economy in the current expenses of the municipal government, in Boston and Philadelphia, it is said, the Assessors find abundant evidences of the shrinkage of values when they compare the estimated value with the market value of the property to-day. They will be compelled to reduce the assessments, and City Councils must in turn reduce the expenses of municipal government. These are the only alternatives left.

The insurance men of New York are trying to prevent any fireworks demonstration on the Fourth of July. In the discussion of the matter it was stated that there were thirty-three firms in New York on last Fourth—seven were from Chinese lanterns and the balance were caused by fire-crackers, blue-lights and other fireworks. The probability is that the prohibitions of the Fourth will be confined to the parks in New York.

The Prince of Wales, the next King of England—if she has any more Kings—continues to grossly misbehave. There is a new scandal in his notorious association, "Hanon," Mr. Sully called it, with "Lady S," and the London gossip that his wife, the Princess, has got to the end of her patience and philosophy, and is going home to her father, the King of Denmark. But this latter part of the story is not generally credited. The wife who could say years ago, as the Princess is credited with saying, that "Bertie (Albert) has loved many women, but he has loved me best of all," is not likely, with the added motives and strength of added years, to fall in forgiveness now. But it is very wretched business for a man exposed any day to take the crown of England to make himself the occasion of such scandals as these.

Scarcely any of the Presbyterian churches but will have its nice little heresy case to brag of when the great alliance meets in Edinburgh, July 1. The Free Church of Scotland has got a particularly interesting one, that of Prof. W. Robertson Smith, of Aberdeen, who is a member of the Bible Revision Committee. Writing the article on the Bible for the Encyclopaedia Britannica, he inadvertently allowed himself to use some of his scholarship, even to the extent of indicating that he did not hold to the doctrine of the complete inspiration of the Bible; stating, for example, that instructions and laws which in the book of Deuteronomy appear as uttered by Moses are certainly post-Mosaic, and so could not, as a matter of fact, have been uttered by him. Pending his trial before the next general assembly for heresy, the assembly suspended him from his duties as professor by a vote of 491 to 113. But several clergymen warned of the danger of passing this ministerial censure, and expressed their conviction that such views must be faced, and traditional beliefs abandoned, if they were incapable of proof.

Business Memoranda.—The Wellsburg Herald reports that P. W. & Ky. stock has improved very much in that county within the last few days. The same paper also says that "Assessor Kimberland has found some \$132,000 worth of taxable property in Brooke county more than it appears existed before; and the effect of his find it is estimated is to reduce the tax necessary to be levied in order to raise a stated sum of money, about five per cent on the taxable property previously known to exist."

The Allegheny Mail, representing the iron manufacturing industry, complains of the high rate of interest charged to persons in need of money. Millions, it says, are hoarded by calculating men, who trust no investment, and only part with a little of their abundance at usurious rates. So tempting is this traffic that real estate is often sacrificed, that the proceeds may be used in loans "on call," at heavy charges. Boston grows blue every day over its diminishing export trade, and it is now announced that the ocean steamers of the Leyland line will hereafter land at New York, instead of the Hub. There are hardly 50,000 bushels of grain in the elevator, and the lower charges to New York threaten to put an absolute stop to shipments across Massachusetts for the present. When the entire funding debt of South Carolina shall have been converted into consolidated bonds and stocks the State debt will amount to \$5,976,917. The result is attained by the repudiation in 1873 of the \$4,000,000 of spurious conversion bonds and by the scaling of the remainder of the debt to 50 cents on the dollar. The American people continue to go abroad, notwithstanding the stringencies of the times. The New York Times states that more letters of credit have been issued by leading New York houses to travelers abroad, this summer, than during the two or three years past. It estimates that, in the four summer months when most of the traveling abroad is done, not less than \$100,000,000 will be spent by our people in Europe. This one hundred millions is gold—so much gold taken out of our country. In the face of such facts does the Secretary of the Treasury fancy that he can resume, in 1879, on the single gold basis.

Wool growers and buyers in Washington county are five cents per pound apart in their views, and in consequence but little has yet changed hands.

The Wheeling and Lake Erie Railroad.

I went up to Northern Ohio last week to see for myself, what progress was being made with the work on the Wheeling and Lake Erie Railroad, and the condition of its affairs at that end of the line. An inspection of the work and an inquiry and examination into the affairs and prospects of the company resulted in a feeling of satisfaction. I found that the road was completed between Newark and Milan, a distance of four miles with double track, and construction cars daily running upon it. The grading is completed four miles farther and the ties and rails are upon the ground and being laid down upon the track at the rate of from one-quarter to one-half mile daily. This carries the road to deep water on the Huron river so that a connection will be made with lake navigation as soon as the rails are laid to that point, which will be by the last of July or earlier.

The material and work so far are all that the friends of the road could desire. The rails weigh 35 lbs. to the yard, and are well laid with splice bars on solid oak ties. I rode over the road twice, sometimes at a speed of thirty miles or more per hour, and found it as smooth as an old road. The completed portion of the road is mostly over heavy fills and deep cuttings, made necessary by the descent from Newark to the lower level of navigable water, but the grade has not been allowed to exceed fifty-two feet to the mile, with easy curvatures. Huron river, the present terminus, is easy of entrance from the Lake, and has ample depth of water for seven miles above its mouth, and affords one of the best, if not the best, of the routes most convenient for the handling of heavy freights on Lake Erie. Considerable shipping is owned at Milan and Huron. There is a shipyard at the point where the railroad strikes deep water in the river, from which a schooner of 1,400 tons burden was recently launched, and which, with other vessels, was there lying in the river. From this point to Huron at the mouth of the river, which is four miles further by the railroad, the work is being energetically prosecuted, with a good prospect of completion in July.

Southwardly from Newark the most of the line is ready for the rails as far as New London. The rails are being delivered for this portion of the line, and will probably be laid down so as to be ready for trains to pass over by the middle or last of August. So soon as this is done, the line local traffic will be developed, and advantages to the road and also cheapening fuel and other products of the line. Two locomotives are at Newark, ready to do this business. There are three flat cars being used for construction purposes and more will be added as needed. It is found that the rails which carry ten tons each with safety.

You are aware that it was determined to build the Wheeling & Lake Erie Railroad on a narrow or three-foot gauge. To this very many subscribers to the stock of the road objected, influenced generally by the idea that a narrow gauge railroad is to a certain extent a toy road. Witnessing the operating of the few miles of road already completed has dispelled this objection. On the day on which it was first opened upward of 4,000 people were carried between Newark and Milan, and large numbers since. The public have become thoroughly satisfied that freight and passengers can be carried as well on a three-foot as on a wider gauge, and the stock subscriptions are now being freely paid in. Respecting the progress of the road beyond New London, it looks to me as if the resources of the country might prove sufficient to carry it forward to the coal fields this winter or early in the next year, after which its extension to Martin's Ferry, in the nature of things, can not be long delayed. This may seem to you to be a very sanguine view of the prospects of our road, but I think the facts justify it. Yours, Jos. ELLI.

That Mississippi Horror.

It is scarcely probable that a thoroughly impartial opinion of the killing of Judge Chisholm and his brave daughter and infant son, and of two other Republican leaders, can be obtained from the Republicans of that vicinity, but the following expression from ex-Governor Powers deserves serious attention. Governor Powers preceded Adams in the Executive chair in 1873; was elected by Democrats, and has been and is closely identified with the Democratic party of that State. He will probably be accepted by all as a witness, and he says: I think it was the most unprovoked and barbarous example of foul treachery that has ever come under my observation. I can not say anything in praise of persons which would adequately condemn the outrageousness of the affair. I have been acquainted with Judge Chisholm and his family, and know the indomitable courage which they all possessed. There never lived a man endowed with more courage than Judge Chisholm. I immediately after the tragedy Miss Chisholm telegraphed to me, and without the loss of a moment I repaired to her bedside, and from her dying lips I received a detailed account of the bloody affair. She seemed to think that in giving up her life to save her father she had done nothing more than a simple duty, and thought that her actions were not anything remarkable. In my opinion, she performed one of the most courageous acts ever known to the world, and the men who committed this most foul murder will never be able to rest until they should be hunted down with unflinching efforts until they are brought before the bar of justice. Political causes undeniably brought the affair about. Had Judge Chisholm co-operated with the Democratic party in the manner he did with the Republican, he would have been a popular Democratic leader in that section.

What a Minister Can Do Without Hurling His Stomach.

A clergyman was without a charge. He secured the confidence of some of our prominent men, who determined to put him into some position. He was a Scotchman, and very fond of "Mountain Dew." Rumors of his weakness reached the city, but they were not credited. He was assigned to a very important institution, where personal piety and strict morals were indispensable. Before six months had passed he had become a regular habitué of visiting drinking places and going home from night meetings in a state of gross intoxication. His superiors refused to believe anything against him and kept him at his work. On the strength of his New York position, he made the acquaintance of an intelligent lady in the neighborhood and married her. She had a little money in her own right. On the bridal tour to Canada he became beastly drunk. The woman had to send home and get money to return to the city. Still the man was allowed to occupy the chief place in one of the most important and moral institutions in New York. When the man's conduct became so notorious that it was impossible to keep him in his place, his friends still clung to him. He was assigned to an important down-town charge, where the principal field of labor was among the poor, the lowly, and those who are victims of intemperance. His wife confided her sorrows to a few personal friends. She said that during his connection with that church he seldom came home a night sober. It was so abusive that the woman died of grief within six months after her marriage. Her little earnings, laid up before her wedding, were diverted from her aged mother, for whose benefit they had been invested. During all this while the minister continued to work as a leading missionary. He preached, he prayed, he lectured, and temperance meetings, on the platform, nearly every night somewhere—seldom going to bed at night sober. The scandal

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STEPHENSON HOUSE AND SALINE MINERAL BATHS. ST. CATHARINES, ONTARIO, CANADA. (Eleven miles from Niagara Falls), opens June 14. R. W. WARREN, Proprietor. Je19

NOTICE TO CONTRACTORS. The undersigned Commissioners, appointed at the June term of the Brooke County Court, 1877, will receive sealed proposals for building a Stone Arch through the tunnel at Wang's Mill, on the Wheeling and Lake Erie Railroad, on Saturday, July 14th